

1. (Currently Amended) A method of activating a serum and glucocorticoid-induced protein kinase (SGK) comprising:

contacting a SGK comprising SEQ ID NO:45 or SEQ ID NO:48 or both with a compound wherein the SGK is phosphorylated by the compound and wherein the compound is a PDK1 or a variant, fragment, or fusion thereof, or a fusion of said variant or fragment or a preparation having PDK2 activity.

2.-6. Canceled

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of ~~activating SGK~~ wherein the SGK is phosphorylated on the residue equivalent to Thr256 of full-length human SGK1.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of ~~activating SGK~~ wherein the SGK is phosphorylated on the residue equivalent to Ser422 of full-length human SGK1.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the SGK is further phosphorylated on the residue equivalent to Thr256 of full-length human SGK1.

10.-43. Cancelled

44. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1, 7, or 8, ~~25, 26 or 31-33,~~ wherein the ~~said~~ SGK is SGK1, SGK2 $\alpha$ , SGK2 $\beta$  or SGK3.

45.-50. Canceled

51. (New) The method according to claims 1, 7, or 8 wherein the PDK1 or a variant, fragment or fusion thereof or a fusion of said

variant of fragment phosphorylates a polypeptide which comprises SEQ ID NO:48.

52. (New) The method according to claim 1, 7, or 8 wherein the preparation having PDK2 activity phosphorylates a polypeptide which comprises SEQ ID NO:45.

53. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the SGK is capable of phosphorylating a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:49.

54. (New) The method according to claim 53, wherein the SGK has at least 65% identity with a full length human SGK1, SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8.